

I am deeply concerned about Sinclair Broadcasting's plan to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. Using public airwaves to broadcast political propaganda violates the public trust -- it doesn't matter which political party stands to gain from this kind of activity. When large sections of the media are in the hands of a few private individuals, how can they serve the public interest? How can we maintain true freedom of the press when subsidiary stations are forced to air programs chosen by the interested parties that own them?

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.